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**Volume 3, Number 5** **May 8, 1995**

**Board Of Control Tries To Help**

## Low St. Lawrence Worries Mariners

Three months of below-average water supplies could mean a disappointing start to the recreational boating season on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

**No Seasonal Rise**

"Lake Ontario's level has remained virtually unchanged for the past three months, when it normally would have risen some 35 cm," said Peter Yee of Environment Canada's Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Regulation Office in Cornwall.

"The water level at the beginning of May was 30 cm lower than it was at the same time last year," he said, adding: "We have received a number of calls from concerned marina operators who are worried about how these low levels will affect the boating season."

**Outflows Reduced**

In an effort to conserve water on Lake Ontario, the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control authorized reduced outflows from the lake. However, since the decreased flows lower the level at Montréal Harbour, this measure is undertaken when it will not interfere with commercial vessels in the Harbour.

**Port Level Falls**

Water levels at Montréal dipped to near record lows in April due to low flows from Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River. Port officials said some deep draft commercial vessels were forced to leave some of their cargo behind due to reduced depths in the harbour; others had to detour to deeper ports in the Maritimes.

Lake Ontario's level rose by about five cm during the latter half of April. About one cm of this can be attributed to the flow reductions.

**Slight Rise To Come**

Levels of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River between Kingston and

Cornwall are expected to rise by small amounts until June or early July. This should improve boating conditions somewhat.

However, water levels downstream of Cornwall, including Montréal Harbour, will likely continue to decline due to reductions in Lake Ontario's outflow and declining flows from the Ottawa River.

**Lakes Lower Than '94**

The other lakes have also experienced lower-than-average supplies for much of the past three months. As a result, all of the lakes have lower levels than those recorded at the same time a year ago.

## Meet the Boards

The **International St. Lawrence River Board of Control** will meet the public on Monday, **May 15 at 7 p.m.** at the Sarto Desnoyers Community Centre, 1335 Lakeshore Road, Dorval, Quebec.

The **International Lake Superior Board of Control** will meet the public on Tuesday, **June 27, at 7 p.m.** at the Civic Centre, 99 Foster Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

**For more information**, contact Peter Yee at (613) 938-5725.

## Other Lakes Look Good For Summer

Despite concerns about low water level problems on Lake Ontario, boating conditions on the other Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair are likely to remain favourable for the remainder of the summer. Swimmers and sunbathers can also expect to find ample beaches in many areas. The risk of flooding on all the Great Lakes remains very low.

With the exception of Lakes Ontario and Superior, the lakes rose during April in keeping with the increase in levels that occurs every spring. However, the middle lakes and Lake St. Clair did not increase at their usual pace. All the middle lakes and Lake Superior were 10-15 cm below their levels recorded at the same time a year earlier.

Nevertheless, all of these lakes, with the exception of Lakes Superiorand Ontario, remain above their long-term average levels for the time of year.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin received 117% of the average precipitation for April. Lake Superior's drainage basin received 97%; Lakes Michigan-Huron, 133%; Lake Erie's basin (which includes Lake St. Clair), 126%; and Lake Ontario, 73%.

If water supplies are near average for the next few months, all of the lakes are expected to continue their seasonal rises through June and July. Lower-than-average supplies could slow or stop these annual water level increases.

## Open House On Shoreline Management

If you have property between Evans Point and Mohawk Bay on Lake Erie, plan to attend an **Open House on Saturday, May 27**.

The Grand River Conservation Authority will host this opportunity to learn more about how shoreline management planning will affect you.The event will take place at the **Town of Dunnville Recreation Centre between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

For more information, contact Joe Farwell or Gloria Yeung at the **Grand River Conservation Authority (519) 621-2761.**

## CA Seeks Shore Watchers

If you live on Lake Ontario or Lake Erie shoreline that falls within the boundaries of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, you may be able to help the CA gather information about storm events by volunteering as a **"Shore Watcher".**

The only qualifications you need to participate in the Shore Watch program are an interest in your shoreline and a telephone.

To find out more, contact David Watson at the **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority at 1-800-263-4760, extension 237.**

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